

**red  
nose**  
grief and loss

## Treasured Babies' Program

Information for bereaved parents,  
hospital staff and supporters



for 24 hour support please call

**1300 308 307**

for more information visit our website

**[rednosegriefandloss.com.au](http://rednosegriefandloss.com.au)**

# Treasured Babies' Program

The Treasured Babies' Program began with the aim of supporting bereaved parents while they are still in hospital with their baby (or babies in the case of a multiple birth).

The Treasured Babies' gifts are supplied to hospitals to give parents something special in which to dress their precious baby.

Outfits have been designed and developed with input from midwives, social workers and bereaved parents for families who experience the loss of their precious baby prior to full term. Some of the garments open out flat for babies who might be quite fragile, to ensure they are able to be dressed with a minimum of handling.



We work together with participating maternity hospitals to provide a range of support materials that are immediately available when a baby dies. The Treasured Babies' Program seeks to make sure that all parents receive the best possible grief support.

The Treasured Babies' Program aims to help hospital staff support families by having gestation-appropriate Treasured Babies' gifts on hand to give to newly bereaved parents. These gifts contain beautiful handmade clothing that has been specially designed, relevant literature and a Naming Certificate.



The Treasured Babies' Program also supplies Angel boxes for burial, Memory boxes in which to keep precious items and Remembrance boxes for early losses.

Dressing their deceased baby can help to 'normalise' the bereaved parents' experience. Parents are more inclined to spend time with their baby when he/she is dressed. The clothes give them silent permission to be a mum and dad. Spending quality time with their baby helps parents to come to terms with their grief in the coming months and gives them some precious memories to treasure. Simple actions, such as bathing, dressing and taking photos of their baby, are very important to the grieving process. Photos taken become cherished because this is their only opportunity to do this. Having tangible memories will help parents to grieve and they will be able to share these with their support networks.

The literature included in the Treasured Babies' gifts answers many of the immediate questions that parents have with regard to their newly born child. It also lets them know of the support organisations available within the community that they can access, particularly once they have left the care of the hospital.



The Naming Certificates are a very important way of acknowledging babies under 20 weeks' gestation, as these babies do not receive a Birth Certificate.

Hospitals and parents receive the Treasured Babies' gifts free of charge. The Treasured Babies' Program is fully funded by donations and sponsorship and the committee coordinates a network of volunteers who hand-make the precious gifts. All materials used have been kindly donated by businesses and individuals.



## Why is the Treasured Babies' Program so important?

When a baby dies there is often little warning, leaving parents in shock and unable to organise clothing and other items for their baby. Having ready access to appropriately-sized baby clothing, supplied by the Treasured Babies' Program, can reduce some of the stress for parents at a time that is already very difficult. They are then able to spend as many precious moments with their baby as possible.

A range of items has been developed so that the gift can be adapted to meet different situations including: miscarriage, stillbirth, premature live birth/subsequent death, neonatal death and multiple births (of each of these).

Parents may want to dress their baby in one outfit for photos and change their baby into another outfit for burial. This way they can treasure the clothes that were actually worn by their child. Additional clothing from the Treasured Babies' gift range is made available to parents.

Being able to give newly bereaved parents the opportunity to choose what their baby wears can be empowering to the parents at a time when they have very little control over their situation.

**For further information please contact:  
Red Nose Grief and Loss  
Treasured Babies' Program**

email [treasuredbabies@rednose.com.au](mailto:treasuredbabies@rednose.com.au)

visit [rednosegriefandloss.com.au](http://rednosegriefandloss.com.au)

**The Treasured Babies' Volunteer Centre is open  
on Tuesday and Friday mornings 03 9727 5699**

## Red Nose Grief and Loss - Office Locations

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Victoria

Melbourne 3008  
Geelong 3200

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New South Wales

Lilyfield 2040  
Hamilton South 2303

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Queensland

Mount Gravatt 4122

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ACT

Chifley 2606

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Western Australia

Kensington 6151

24 hour

Bereavement support please call

**1300 308 307**

for more information visit our website

**[rednosegriefandloss.com.au](http://rednosegriefandloss.com.au)**

The logo consists of a red circle containing the text 'red nose' in white, with 'red' on the top line and 'nose' on the bottom line. Below 'nose' is the text 'grief and loss' in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

**red  
nose**  
grief and loss

For further information or to access  
Red Nose Grief and Loss Services

email [support@rednose.com.au](mailto:support@rednose.com.au)

visit [rednosegriefandloss.com.au](http://rednosegriefandloss.com.au)

Red Nose Grief and Loss was formerly known as SIDS and Kids